

Mansfield Public Schools

Board of Education Update

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Superintendent of Schools

Issue #20

February 2010

Information regarding the current status of the Mansfield Public Schools: items, issues, challenges, and opportunities district staff addressed during the month, as well as upcoming district and school events.

Enrollment

| Gr. | GW | | SE | | VN | | MMS | | Total |
|---------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|------|-----|------|-------|
| | | +/-* | | +/-* | | +/-* | | +/-* | |
| PK | 31 | 6/1 | 30 | 3/3 | 31 | 1/1 | | | 92 |
| K | 30 | 0/1 | 31 | 6/3 | 54 | 2/1 | | | 115 |
| 1 | 37 | 3/2 | 45 | 2/0 | 34 | 1/0 | | | 116 |
| 2 | 35 | 1/0 | 43 | 3/1 | 53 | 0/1 | | | 131 |
| 3 | 32 | 0/0 | 51 | 4/3 | 50 | 1/1 | | | 133 |
| 4 | 34 | 1/1 | 49 | 1/0 | 49 | 2/2 | 1 | | 133 |
| PK-4 | | | | | | | | | 720 |
| 5 | | | | | | | 138 | 4/1 | 138 |
| 6 | | | | | | | 149 | 4/1 | 149 |
| 7 | | | | | | | 144 | 3/2 | 144 |
| 8 | | | | | | | 141 | 2/0 | 141 |
| # Boys | 110 | | 129 | | 144 | | 294 | | 678 |
| # Girls | 89 | | 120 | | 127 | | 279 | | 615 |
| Total | 199 | 11/5 | 249 | 19/10 | 271 | 7/6 | 573 | 13/4 | 1292 |

*Entries/Withdrawals

- Home-school year to date total: 8 families with 12 students.

| | GW | SE | VN | MMS | District |
|---------------------|----|----|----|-----|----------|
| Immigrant Children* | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 11 |
| ELL** | 2 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 15 |

*Eligible immigrant children are defined as a) ages 3-21 enrolled full-time in school, b) not born in any state, c) have not been attending 1 or more schools in 1 or more states for more than 3 full academic years.

**English Language Learners

Connecticut Mastery Test – Fourth Generation Results

#/% of students at/above goal – March 2009

| Grade | Math | Writing | Reading | Science |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 3 – 133 | 113/85.0% | 86/72.2% | 98/73.7% | ----- |
| 4 – 124 | 100/83.3% | 92/74.2% | 91/75.8% | ----- |
| 5 – 137 | 97/71.3% | 99/72.3% | 101/73.7% | 110/80.3% |
| 6 – 141 | 113/80.1% | 109/77.9% | 120/85.7% | ----- |
| 7 – 136 | 105/78.4% | 110/80.9% | 116/87.2% | ----- |
| 8 – 160 | 131/81.9% | 139/86.9% | 138/86.8% | 142/88.8% |

- Students not reaching goal in one or more areas: (2009-2010 grade)

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Gr. 4 – 47/35.3% | Gr. 7 – 44/31.2% |
| Gr. 5 – 49/39.5% | Gr. 8 – 40/29.2% |
| Gr. 6 – 63/46.0% | Gr. 9 – 42/26.0% |

Budget

- Food Service Comparison:

| Sept., 2008-Feb., 2009 | | Sept., 2009-Feb., 2010 | |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Paid Meals | Total Meals | Paid Meals | Total Meals |
| 59,798 | 84,860 | 51,443 | 83,862 |

- Facilitated MBOE discussion on adoption of 2010-2011 budget of \$20,588,160 a decrease of .04.

Personnel

| | Certified | Non-Certified |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Retirements | 0 | 0 |
| Resignations | 0 | 0 |
| Requests for Leave | 0 | 0 |
| New Hires | 0 | 0 |
| Reduction in Force | 0 | 0 |

- Participated in Personnel Committee negotiations with UPSEU.
- Participated in Employee Benefits Quarterly Meeting with Town and Region staff.
- Completed agreement with UPSEU regarding custodians at the Mansfield Community Center.

District: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Including Instructional Technology Applications

- Conducted two administrative council meetings.
- Continued Study Island software program for all district grade 3 and 4 students to use both at school and at home.
- Facilitated a year two implementation plan for *Bridges in Mathematics*.
- Facilitated the plan for implementing Houghton Mifflin: *Legacy of Literacy*.
- Implemented a plan for in-class preschool music.
- Implemented district review and use of CBAS (CT Benchmark Assessment System) for grades 3-8 in Math & Reading.
- Initiated MyRTI assessment.
- Facilitated council meetings with consultants hired to review art, music, and social studies curriculum.
- Conducted AYP meetin to develop a district plan.
- Facilitated CMT scheduling & distribution of materials and specific student issues?

Policies

- Continued to implement MBOE Policies reflecting recent changes in legislature drafted by Shipman & Goodwin.
- Researched Town Personnel Committee draft policy regarding open and transparent government.

Building and Grounds

- Continued to implement an alternative work order system.
- Attended MMS Fuel Conversion weekly meetings regarding project implementation.
- Participated in Building Committee meetings to develop and provide information on Four Schools Renovation Project and develop a rank order to recommend to the MBOE.
- Conducted tours of Vinton and Southeast prior to MBOE meetings.
- Facilitated a visit to Nayaug School by MBOE & Town Council members.
- Conducted Facilities Management meeting to address current issues.

Programs

| Study Island Through February 27, 2010 | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Grade 3 | | | | Grade 4 | | | |
| Math | | Reading | | Math | | Reading | |
| Q* | % Correct | Q* | % Correct | Q* | % Correct | Q* | % Correct |
| 45,820 | 83.4 | 21,576 | 68.9 | 21,879 | 87.1 | 16,817 | 77.6 |

**Number of questions attempted on grade level*

Security

- Continued the implementation of new required crisis prevention drills for all schools with emergency management officials.

Energy

- Implemented school building energy committees.
- Implemented guidelines for after school building use in an effort to reduce energy consumption.
- Reduced hall lighting in hallways in all 4 schools and some classrooms at MMS.
- Monitored use of energy efficient refrigerators to replace classroom use of small refrigerators.
- Initiated monitoring of gas heat & electric energy charges at MMS due to fuel conversion project.

Communication

- Facilitated taping and television scheduling of Southeast School Building Committee Presentation.
- Distributed flier with Channel 13 dates/times of video of Southeast School Building Committee Presentation to parents, public library, senior center, and Discovery Depot.
- Sent letter to grades 3-8 parents regarding CMT testing.
- Conducted monthly meetings with bargaining unit leaders.
- Facilitated district Technology Committee meeting via video conference.
- Facilitated Professional Development Committee meeting.
- Attended two TriTown Superintendents meeting.
- Facilitated UCONN Professional Development Steering Committee meeting.
- Attended Regional Special Education Committee meeting.
- Attended Goodwin's International Pot Luck Dinner

Professional Development

- Supported grades 6-8 Holistic Writing Scoring sessions.

Technology Administrative Applications

- Continued implementation of HealthOffice Software.
- Continued implementation of automated system for recording substitutes.
- Continued spread sheet submission of language arts assessments.
- Planned conversion to Horizon library system software.
- Supported training and development of PowerSchool software at MMS and Filemaker Pro/EASTCONN RTI software.
- Implemented new PowerSchool cafeteria software in all four schools.
- Initiated implementation of MyRTI software program.
- Continued implementation of AlertNow software program for transportation issues.

Other

- Reviewed extension proposal from Durham School Services for bus transportation.
- Attended MAC (Mansfield Advocates for Children) and Successful Learners Group meetings.
- Attended EASTCONN SRBI Council meeting.
- Attended TEAM Program Training.
- Attended URSA and Hockanum Superintendents' meetings.
- Attended UCONN Colloquia Series: CT Benchmark Assessment System.
- Attended EASTCONN Regional District Improvement Planning Session.
- Attended CAPSS Legislative and Small District Committee meetings.
- Attended CAS School Improvement Planning Workshop.
- Attended Education Leadership Group meeting at CREC.
- Attended Teacher Hiring Workshop.
- Participated in Board Examinations Systems focus group.

Additional information will be provided upon request by calling 429.3350 or by emailing mboesupt@mansfieldct.org.

Mansfield Public Schools Monthly Memorable Moments

Goodwin School

- Fourth grader Griffin Deans had an amazing experience in Burbank, California last week. Griffin was selected to appear on the Ellen DeGeneres show after submitting a video commercial for his Invention Convention design of a bathtub reading stand. One of four students selected from around the country, Griffin and his mother were flown to California to tape the show and received a MacIntosh laptop from Ellen for his great work. The school gathered in the gym to catch Griffin's segment on the show when it aired on March 1.
- Friday February 12th was Goodwin's first Tropical Reading Day, a day designed to promote reading and to show school spirit. To help capture the mood, students were encouraged to bring a hat, sunglasses, beach towel and, of course, a favorite book. We spread our beach towels and blankets out on the gym floor, read and had a picnic lunch. It was a great way to beat the winter blahs!!

Southeast School

- PE instructor Betsy Parker, World Language teacher Diane Hutton and three of our 4th grade students - Kobe Edwards, Emerson Femc and Calista Storrs, attended a KIDSMARATHON press conference at CAS in Cheshire on Thursday, February 25th. In interviews with news reporters from Chanel 8, Chanel 3 and the Hartford Courant, they answered questions about how they prepared for KIDSMARATHON last year. The discussion included mileage club, running club and good nutrition choices at Southeast. KIDSMARATHON is an 8 to 10 week training program that enables kids to complete a full marathon by running incremental distances each week leading up to the finish in front of hundreds of fans. Last year, Southeast was chosen as one of the schools to pilot KIDSMARATHON which will be offered to all CT schools this spring.
- Recently, Southeast School joined other schools around the state to help raise money for relief efforts in Haiti, particularly those that impact Haitian children. To date, our school has raised over \$2000. Two of our 3rd graders, Nana-Boatema Hansen and Daiey Zhang, have joined this effort by making origami paper hats, headbands and bracelets to give to families who donated money at two of our family events. They are very proud of the overwhelming response they have received to support their creative fundraiser.
- As part of National Nutrition Month, all of the Southeast students will participate in a free healthy snack program for the month of March. This opportunity has been graciously supported (\$800) by the Southeast P.T.O. Some of the nutritious snacks will include: honeydew melon, grapefruit, pineapple, snow peas, snap peas and cucumbers.

Vinton School

- Thanks to the State Department of Agriculture, Vinton School was able to use the state's fruit/vegetable costumes for our Health Nutrition presentation given during our Celebrate Vinton Assembly. Students, staff and several parents enjoyed the presentation given by Lisa Eaton, school nurse, and several good-hearted volunteers (the fruits and vegetables) as they presented the *Building Blocks of Good Health and Nutrition*. This presentation was a kick-off to our *March National Nutrition Month*. Vinton's theme during this month is *Breakfast Health*.
- During the month of February, Kindergarten Kind Bears have been collecting donations to benefit the Friends of Mansfield Animal Shelter, a non-profit group dedicated to helping the homeless pets at the Mansfield Animal Control facility. Students and staff members purchased Valentine Hearts for their beloved pets; the valentine and a picture of their animal friends were posted on the bulletin board near the school office. We wrapped up the month with staff contributing their Dress Down Day fund to this effort. Vinton certainly has many caring hearts at our school!

Vinton School continued

- Fourth grade students in Ms. Barrow's enrichment class wanted to do something to help the people of Haiti as a result of the earthquake. They presented their ideas for raising funds at the January Celebrate Vinton Assembly. All the students were enthusiastically supportive of the idea. Governor Rell announced a means of sending funds to Haiti through CAS and the American Savings Bank giving the students a means of sending their donations. A jar was placed in the hall for donations, 4th graders created posters which were displayed throughout the school. At our February Celebrate Vinton the 4th grade students announced that a total of \$905.49 was raised. To help celebrate the success, Jordan Lorrius, an ECSU student and native of Haiti, sang a song he wrote as a means of working through his grief as a result of his loss of family and friends in the earthquake. Jordan's friend Samantha accompanied him on the violin. The link to Jordan's song on youtube is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fom1PcCthJM&feature=related>

Mansfield Middle School

- The 2009-2010 girls basketball team finished the season with a record of 15 wins and 0 losses, including two victories in the semi-finals and finals of the NEMSAC tournament. The team ended the season as the league champions. Ms. Betsy Parker and Mr. Curt Vincente coached the team through the undefeated season. The girls balanced school work and basketball with the help of Mrs. Dona Stratton, who supervised daily after-school study halls for the players.
- The 2009-2010 Mansfield Middle School boys basketball team enjoyed another successful season. Led by Mr. Buck and Mr. Figueroa the boys played hard throughout the season. Both the A-team and B-team had winning records for the season. The A-team finished the season with a record of 11-5 while the B-team finished at 8-6. With a record of 10-2 in conference play the A-team won the regular season title and earned a first round bye in the NEMSAC tournament. The team won a thrilling semi-final game against Willington but lost a hard fought game against Coventry in the Finals to finish as runners-up.
- A cast of 90 middle school students is preparing for this year's musical, *Annie!* Performances will take place in the Patt Tuite Auditorium at MMS on the weekend of March 26-28 at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, 3/26; at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, 3/27; and at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, 3/28. All tickets are \$5, and they will soon be available in the school office. Remaining tickets will be available at the door for each performance.
- Twenty-four MMS students in Grades 6 – 8 are participating in the five ensembles that performed at the March Festival Concert. Students were selected in the fall following a solo audition. Each student auditioned for one of the five performing groups: treble choir, mixed choir, orchestra, concert band, and jazz band. Following notification of their selection for a regional ensemble, students received music to study and practice. On March 5 and 6 all of the selected musicians from Eastern Connecticut gather for two rehearsals at Fitch High School in Groton and then for a concert.
- Nine students in Grades 5 – 8 recently participated in the Science Quiz Bowl at the Information Technology Building at UConn. The Quiz Bowl included round robin competition in questions about science knowledge interspersed with rounds of solar car races. The MMS team entered two solar cars in the races.
- Six students in Gr. 6 – 8 worked for several weeks in the Science Enrichment room to construct and program their entry in this year's regional robotics competition at Manchester High School in February. Students designed a robot to compete in the *Clean Sweep* challenge of picking up three balls – ranging in size from a softball to a football – and launching them over their opponent's wall. Meanwhile the robot must also play defense, blocking or removing the opponent's volleys.

Upcoming Events in March:

Please join us at any/all of these events

| GW | SE | VN |
|---|---|--|
| PTO Meeting 3/17/10 6:30pm | Parents Hour/PTO Meeting 3/1/10 6:00pm | PTA Meeting 3/8/10 7:00pm |
| Family Math Night 3/34/10 6:30pm | SE Family Skate – UCONN rink 3/21/10 3:30pm | Celebrate Vinton Assembly 3/18/10 10:15am |
| Gr. 1&2 Music Concert 3/25/10 7:00pm | | |
| MMS | | |
| One School One Read 3/1-19/10 | String Goups at Senior Center Luncheon 3/3/10 12:00pm | Spring Country Dance 3/9/10 7:00pm |
| Student Production of Annie 3/26/10 and 3/27/10 7:00pm 3/28/10 1:00pm | | |
| District | | |
| CMT Testing – Gr. 3-8 3/1-11/10 | School Building Committee 3/3/10 5:00pm | MBOE Meeting 3/11/10 7:30pm |
| School Building Informational Public Meeting at MMS 3/15/10 7:00pm | Professional Development Day No school for students 3/22/10 | |